

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract on page 35 as follows:

~~The use, for the manufacture of paper coating colors, of a copolymer water soluble in a neutral or alkaline medium as an agent for simultaneously adjusting the water retention of the coating colors and the Brookfield viscosity of the said coating colors.~~

~~A novel water retention agent for paper coating colors, water soluble in a neutral or alkaline medium.~~

~~The coating colors and the coated paper and cardboard thus obtained.~~

The use, for the manufacture of paper coating colors, of a copolymer water-soluble in a neutral or alkaline medium as an agent for simultaneously adjusting the water retention of the coating colors and the Brookfield viscosity of the said coating colors; a water-retention agent comprising the copolymer; and coating colors and the coated paper and cardboard thus obtained.